

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated October 15, 2004. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 19-26 are under consideration in this application. Claim 19 is being amended, as set forth above and in the attached marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim Applicants' invention.

All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejection

Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), (1) claim 19 was rejected as being unpatentable over US Pat. No. 6,097,467 to Fujimaki et al. (hereinafter "Fujimaki") in view of US Pat. No. 6,211,937 to Miyachi et al. (hereinafter "Miyachi"), (2) claims 21-25 were rejected over Fujimaki and Miyachi, and further in view of US Pat. No. 5,745,207 to Asada et al. (hereinafter "Asada"), and (3) claims 20 and 26 were rejected over Fujimaki and Miyachi, Asada, and further in view of US Pat. No. 6,052,163 to Sung (hereinafter "Sung"). These rejections have been carefully considered, but are most respectfully traversed in view of the claims currently on file, as more fully discussed below.

The liquid display device of the invention (for example, the embodiment depicted in Fig. 5; attached annotated drawings), as now recited in claim 19, comprises: first and second substrates with a liquid crystal layer therebetween; a plurality of gate lines GLs 2 and a plurality of drain lines DLs 3 formed on the first substrate; a counter electrode 4A and a pixel electrode 5 formed on the first substrate and arranged in each of a plurality of pixels each defined by one of the gate lines GLs and one of the drain lines DLs; a black matrix BM formed on the second substrate. The gate line GL 2 and an edge of the black matrix BM are

elongated parallel to an initial orientation direction defined by an initial orientation angle, the black matrix BM is at least formed over the gate line GL 2 in plane view, and a spacer 10 is arranged over a part of the gate line GL 2 in plane view. The pixel electrode 5 has a plurality of comb-tooth-shaped portions (p. 7, lines 4-5) with spaces formed therebetween, and an angle formed between an elongated direction of the plurality of comb-tooth-shaped portions and the initial orientation direction is smaller than an angle formed between the elongated direction of the plurality of comb-tooth-shaped portions and the drain line DL 3.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited prior art references teaches or suggests that “the pixel electrode 5 has a plurality of comb-tooth-shaped portions (p. 7, lines 4-5) with spaces formed therebetween, and an angle formed between an elongated direction of the plurality of comb-tooth-shaped portions and the initial orientation direction is smaller than an angle formed between the elongated direction of the plurality of comb-tooth-shaped portions and the drain line DL 3” as the invention.

In contrast, Fujimaki’s pixel electrode 6 (Fig. 4) has only one tooth, rather than a plurality of comb-tooth-shaped portions with spaces formed therebetween. In addition, an angle (i.e., 90 or 0 degree) formed between an elongated direction (Y) of the tooth of Fujimaki’s pixel electrode 6 and the initial orientation direction (X or Y) is “**bigger than**” or “**equal to**” (rather than “**smaller than**”) an angle (i.e., 0 degree) formed between the elongated direction (Y) of the tooth of Fujimaki’s pixel electrode 6 and the drain line DL 5 (Y). Sung (Fig. 1) shares the same deficiencies as Fujimaki’s.

Asada’s pixel electrode 4 (Fig. 2) has two arms. An angle (i.e., 90 or 0 degree) formed between an elongated direction (Y) of the arms of Asada’s pixel electrode 4 and the initial orientation direction (X or Y) is “**bigger than**” or “**equal to**” (rather than “**smaller than**”) an angle (i.e., 0 degree) formed between the elongated direction (Y) of the arms of Asada’s pixel electrode 4 and the drain line DL.

Miyachi merely teaches a square-shaped pixel electrode (Fig. 8).

Applicants contend that none of the cited prior art references teaches or suggests each and every feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 19. As such, the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the rejections raised in the Office Action. The withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is in order, and is respectfully solicited.

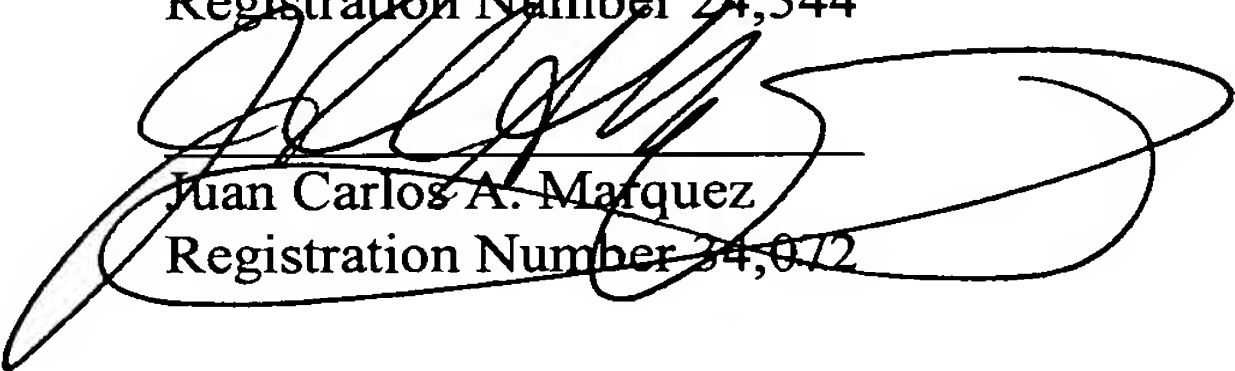
Conclusion

In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

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Annotated Drawing

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FIG. 5

